



# State of South Carolina

## Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD  
GOVERNOR

Post Office Box 12267  
COLUMBIA 29211

June 27, 2007

Dear Members of the General Assembly:

I submit the attached veto list with the utmost respect and deference for your work as a member of the General Assembly. Working together we have passed legislation this year that will make a difference in people's lives in a wide array of subject areas that range from DOT and Workers Comp reform to the Priority Investment Act. Given those changes, I was particularly reticent about vetoing significant portions of this year's appropriation act – and have looked for a variety of ways to avoid doing so.

In the end I was compelled to veto portions of the budget because I genuinely believe that we have a significant spending problem in South Carolina. If left unattended I also believe it will cause real harm both to the taxpayers and those who depend on government the most. Finally, it is my firm belief that many allies in both the Senate and the House agree with the notion that things have gone too far on spending and that it needs to be tamped down. In this light please accept this veto list, not as a commentary on what was right or wrong with the legislative budgets, but as a final opportunity this year to affect overall spending in the South Carolina state budget.

In many cases these vetoes were less about the merits of the item in question than about using them as the only available tool to impact spending. We are not delusional about the limitations that any governor has had on the budget process in our state, but recognize that one of the requirements that any of us have in positions of leadership is to set a course and hold true to it. Consistency in raising this issue will have its effect, whether in this administration or in the years that follow my time in Columbia.

I would ask each of you to be bold. Vetoes are a clumsy and at times awkward way of getting at spending, but this is the only tool now available. Given the unprecedented \$1.5 billion of new money coming into Columbia, given the 43 percent growth in government spending since 2004, given the need we see not to grow government faster than people's paychecks, given South Carolina's leading position in the Southeast in government's growth and given our state's unaddressed \$18 billion in liabilities we think it is imperative we take action now.

With the respect earlier mentioned, I submit this list and set this administrations end of year course on spending. What ultimately happens on spending as we all know is in your hands; as you contemplate these vetoes I would appreciate your thoughtful consideration on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Mark Sanford in black ink.

Mark Sanford